

# City College News

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

DECEMBER 20, 2004 VOL. 22 NO. 4

## GBC makes United Way touchdown

Once again, George Brown exceeded its United Way goal, wrapping up another successful fundraising campaign.

Through individual donations and various fundraising events, more than \$100,000 was raised — a huge increase from only five years ago when George Brown donated \$20,000 to the campaign.

Throughout the nine weeks of the campaign, the total climbed steadily towards the \$95,000 mark and in the last days, kicked into high gear to blow past the goal.

"I thought it was a great campaign," said Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, campaign co-chair. "The success of it rested on a number of things including the committee's persistence in following up with donors, high participation rates in the fundraising events and great visibility around the college."

The events portion of the campaign was instrumental not only in raising more funds but also in raising the profile of what we were trying to accomplish. For instance, three major events — the Booksale, Health Check-ups and Flu Clinics and the Minds and Bodies treadmill challenge — were held in the main lobby of St. James campus to successfully attract the attention of students, staff and faculty.

Other highlights of the campaign include the kick-off event held at The 519 Church Street Community Centre.

"The committee really liked the kickoff at the centre," said Shekter-Wolfson. "For many of them, it was the first time they had been inside a social service agency so it really set the stage for the campaign."

Social service agencies like The 519 and other groups are a major part of our local community which George Brown is very committed to, said Bob Cox, co-chair.

"One of the things that help our campaign is the strong sense of community we have here and how we can come together around something positive. George Brown is more in touch with the community than any other college," he said.

The money raised from the campaign will go towards the 146 social service agencies funded by the United Way. Next year's goal will definitely be a six-digit figure, Shekter-Wolfson.

"We will build on what we did this year and add to it with more exciting events and more participation across the college," Cox said.

See photos on page 2



### Holiday Gala

Party-goers ham it up with inflatable instruments at the Holiday Gala on Dec. 4. For more photos from the annual holiday party and the Continuing Education party, go to <http://insite>.

### More City College News on Insite

For more stories, go to <http://insite> on any computer inside the college, click on City College News and read about:

- Master Italian cuisine with the Master Chef Series
- Stamp of approval on Passport to Learning at GBC
- Plus photos from the Holiday Gala and the Continuing Education Holiday party

## Support Staff shine brightly

They are the first people that potential and current students meet once they enter the college. They are the link that connects students to faculty and college administration. They are the caretakers of the building and the caretakers of our community. They are support staff members.

Their jobs vary greatly but they all aim to be the same: friendly, helpful, knowledgeable and a driving force behind the success of our students and our college.

To pay tribute to this important group, Staff Development and the support staff union asked all support staff members to nominate a colleague worthy of star status during Support Staff Week at the end of October.

The stars of the college were presented during the final luncheon of Support Staff Week.

You can check out who was nominated and what was said about them in a special presentation found on Insite at [http://insite/events/Stars\\_lunch\\_presentation\\_04.ppt](http://insite/events/Stars_lunch_presentation_04.ppt)

## iTAC to the rescue

As Murphy's Law states, if something can go wrong, it will especially on those days when just before class or a meeting, the projector screen gets stuck, the computer won't open your Power Point presentation and the VCR eats your videotape.

On days like this, the Information Technology Assistance Centre (iTAC) is your best friend.

These centres, located at St. James (Room 375C), the Centre for Financial Services (Room 130/131) and Casa Loma (Room E221), maintain and support all smart classrooms, co-ordinate the use of audio/visual equipment and provide technical support to students in the Notebook Programs.

iTAC is part of the Client Support branch of ITS, managed by Kaaif Firatli. iTAC's hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday to Friday. Weekend service is available at St. James only.

So the next time Murphy gives you a hard time, give the iTAC staff a call at ext. 4822 (itac) and follow the prompts to choose an iTAC location.

## Snapshots from the 2004 United Way campaign

Teeth Whitening Clinics –  
beginning October 22

United Way Booksale – November 9

Mind and Bodies treadmill  
challenge – November 16 and 17



# GBC shares a Peace of Cake with community



A George Brown Chef School student shares a laugh with a resident at Sunnybrook.

When the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism baked, packaged and shipped 400 fruitcakes to Canadian peacekeeping troops stationed overseas in December 2003, the response from both at home and abroad was so positive, the organizers felt they had to make it an annual gift-giving mission.

"We were overwhelmed with requests by our faculty, staff and students to make Peace of Cake an annual tradition," said Barb Shopland, project manager. "When you have that many people expressing the same excitement and desire, you just know it is a good thing to do."

This year, the selection of seasonal baked goods has expanded to include mince tarts, shortbread and gingerbread cookies, fudge, brownies and fruitcake. The destination of the treats is closer to home but the impact of this gesture is sure to go a long way.

On Dec. 16, 500 baskets filled with holiday baked goods arrived at St. Clares Multifaith Housing, the Yonge Street Mission and Sunnybrook Hospital's Long Term and Veterans' Care unit with the help of volunteers from George Brown, the Yonge Street Mission and the Canadian Armed Forces.

"There are thousands of people in Toronto who wake up every day to a different kind of struggle and this year, we want to give them a taste of the holidays," Shopland said. "We are honoured to be working with these organizations that support three distinct communities in Toronto."

For example, the Yonge Street Mission provides services like food banks and employment training to families and individuals who are living in poverty.

"We're absolutely delighted to partner with George Brown College on this," said Barbara Walkden, Director of Development. "When something this significant happens in the community, it lets our clients know that people really care and are compassionate about where they are in life."

Chef Ian Gallacher, co-ordinator of George Brown's Baking and Pastry Arts program, led a team of bakers, including students and faculty, in making enough treats to fill 500 baskets.

"Peace of Cake is all about helping the community by giving our time, applying our skills and bringing a little cheer to others who are experiencing hard times," Gallacher said.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Health in the College

January 11, 2005

Getting back into the swing of things is always a challenge after a long, relaxing holiday break. Nursing and Fitness and Lifestyle Management students will be showcasing ways to get back on track in the new year from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Association area at Casa Loma campus.

### Central Michigan University – MA in Education Information Session

January 18, 2005

College staff and faculty are invited to find out more about obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Education through Central Michigan University. Courses are held at George Brown on evenings and weekends. The info session will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Room C422 at Casa Loma. For more information, please contact John Price at ext. 2543 or at [jrice@gbrown.ca](mailto:jrice@gbrown.ca).

### GBC Presents: Gwynne Dyer

January 26, 2005

Award-winning journalist and broadcaster, Gwynne Dyer, will deliver a lecture entitled "Three Projects (and a few funerals) — Islamic Empire, Pax Americana or a World of Law." The lecture begins at 2 p.m. in Room 406 in the Centre for Financial Services at 290 Adelaide St. Space is limited; call Patricia Gavira at ext. 4479 or e-mail [pgavira@gbrown.ca](mailto:pgavira@gbrown.ca) to reserve a seat.

### Safe Walk

If you attend evening events or meetings at the college and would like to ensure a safe arrival at your car or subway station, use the Safe Walk service offered at both St. James and Casa Loma campuses.

Hours of operation:

Monday – Thursday 6:30 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.  
Friday 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Locations:

St. James —

200 King Street East in the main lobby and 300 Adelaide St. E. in the Hospitality Building  
Casa Loma —  
142 Kendal Avenue across from security, Davenport Road entrance

### Holiday Break 2004-05

Please note that the college will close for the holiday break at noon on Dec. 24, 2004 and reopen on Jan. 3, 2005.

HAVE A SAFE, RELAXING AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

On Dec. 6, the **Assaulted Women's and Children Counsellor/Advocate** program held a memorial service for the victims of the shooting that took place in Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989. Sandra Pupatello, the Ontario Minister of Community and Social Services, attended the service to show her support for the AWCCA students. "This is a unique program in Canada and we are fortunate to have it in Ontario," she said. Pupatello also talked about her government's commitment to eliminating violence against women through legislation, before lighting a candle in remembrance of all women who have been victims of violence and abuse. As the service came to an end, about 20 students read the names of women killed since last year's memorial — many of them murdered by a partner — and lit a candle in their honour.



Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services, lights a candle to pay tribute to victims of violence and abuse during a memorial service on Dec. 6.

The gym at St. James campus was buzzing with friendly competition as 14 teams duked it out for the top spot in the college at the 21st annual **Staff Volleyball Tournament** on



A participant of the Staff Volleyball Tournament reaches up to block a ball from the opposing team.

Dec. 2. In the finals, **Educational Resources** beat the combined **Hospitality/Marketing** team 25 – 16 to take home the trophy. Last year's champions **Community Services** won the Consolation finals beating **Student Affairs** 25 – 10. Notable awards of recognition include: Best Uniform – Nursing; Best Spirit – Student Association teams 1 and 2; Best Trash Talkers – the Strikers (the union); Most Sportsmanlike – Spiked Spirits/the Branders (Hospitality/Marketing); Biggest Disappointment – Casual Sets (Information Systems) and Best Up-and-Comers – ConEd Spikers.



Fitness and Lifestyle Management students demonstrate how to keep fit during the winter months with a few easy-to-do exercises.

December can be a difficult month for people to get through with exams, hectic work schedules and holiday planning. That's why the students in **Health Sciences** organized a "Surviving December" exhibit in the main lobby of St. James campus on Dec. 1.

**Nursing** students provided stress kits, stress measurement tests and tips on how to deal with stress. **Fitness and Lifestyle Management** students addressed issues such as healthy eating over the holidays, exercising during the winter months and also demonstrated a few quick and easy exercises. About 100 staff and students stopped by the exhibit to pick up information booklets, chat with the students and get some helpful hints on beating the winter blues. "Surviving December" is part of the Health in the College initiative designed to showcase students' work and to illustrate the connection between health sciences programs. The next **Health in the College** event will take place on January 11, 2005 at Casa Loma.

**Nursing** students Beatrice Muigai and Shabanah Mohamed made their moms proud after winning the first annual Bed Making Challenge organized by the **Faculty of Nursing** on Nov. 30. Out of 18 competitors, the two nursing students made the best occupied and unoccupied beds. Making a smooth, wrinkle-free bed is an important skill that nursing students learn in their first year to ensure that the patient is comfortable and to minimize skin irritation, said Sandy Wiesenthal, a nursing professor.



Nursing students carefully tuck their patients in during the first annual Bed Making Challenge on Nov. 30.

On Nov. 26, the **Early Childhood Education** program hosted its annual *Jammin' to Jamaica* fundraising dinner. More than 165 people attended including Gerrard Kennedy, Minister of Education and his wife Jeannette, a graduate of the ECE program, said Lynn Wilson, an ECE professor. The dinner and silent auction was held to raise money for ECE students to do their workplace placements in Kingston, Jamaica. Through various events, including *Jammin' to Jamaica*, about \$6,500 has been raised to go towards student travel and accommodation and resources for the children and teachers that our students will be working with. For more information on the Jamaica Project, go to <http://www.georgebrown.ca/earlychildhood/jamaica/index.html>.



From left to right: ECE faculty member Gail Hunter, Consul General of Jamaica Viva Bettan and ECE students Sheyl Quadri, Viva Kar, Sandra Ponte and Marta Rokicka, at the *Jammin' to Jamaica* fundraising dinner. The three students are headed to Jamaica for a work placement next semester.

# Hats off to winners of GBC teaching excellence awards



## 2004 Crystal Apple Awards

With the GBC Foundation Crystal Apple Awards, our students can say "thank you" to the teachers who don't just teach them but inspire, motivate, encourage and help them through their years at George Brown.

"Crystal Apple is a great way to give back to our teachers," said fashion student Fiona Cameron, at the awards ceremony on Dec. 1. Cameron, who nominated fashion instructor Marsha Jorgensen, was there to support her mentor.

This year's ceremony was held at Siegfried's where staff, students, faculty, friends and family gathered to applaud the nominees and recipients of the Crystal Apple Awards.

"I think it's very nice that they have a reception and present them with the award," said Tracy Tozer, who nominated Community Services' Jill Hornick.

Margo Sheppard, the Foundation's Executive Director and Michael Cooke, VP of Academic Excellence co-hosted the ceremony, introducing each recipient before presenting them with their crystal apple.

The recipients who were honoured that night were Rick Losole from the Access

The winners of this year's Crystal Apple awards gather together at the ceremony on Dec. 1. From left to right: Karen Chandler, Loreto Forte, Marsha Jorgensen, Gary Hodson, Annette Hemerik, Paul Carder (founding donor), Akber Remu, Jill Hornick, Roger Romberg, Richard Losole, Margo Sheppard and seated in front, Laura Bulmer (left) and Dianne Acey.

Centre, Annette Hemerik from the School of Design, Marsha Jorgensen from the Centre for Fashion & Creative Technologies, Jill Hornick from Community Services, Karen Chandler from the Centre for Early Childhood Development, Laura Bulmer from the Centre for Nursing, Akber Remu from Hospitality, Roger Romberg from the Chef School, Gary Hodson from the Centre for Advanced Building Technologies and Loreto Forte from the Centre for Advanced Engineering Technologies. Cheryl Stuart from the Centre for Health Sciences was unable to attend the ceremony.

And to conclude the awards presentation, Paul Carder, the founding donor of the awards, presented Dianne Acey, from the Centre for Financial Services, with the College-wide Crystal Apple Award.

## Continuing Education Teaching Excellence Awards

Whether you are working on a career change, learning English or another language or simply dabbling in personal interest courses, when you study through Continuing Education you want your educational experience to be as rich and diverse as that of a day-time student.

Teaching excellence is an important value that crosses over from day to night in every program at George Brown. Recognizing ConEd instructors who add quality to the experience of part-time learners is important.

The Centre for Continuous Learning recently held a banquet to recognize 14 winners of the Continuing Education Teaching Excellence Awards. The recipients were chosen based on the results of the student surveys and on the recommendations of program co-ordinators, said Kathleen Abbott, Associate Dean of ConEd.

"The student surveys are the biggest component of the assessment but so too is dedication to their job and willingness to go above and beyond for their students," Abbott explained.

(continued over)

The winners of the 2004 ConEd Teaching Excellence Awards are:

**Nika Rylski, Liberal Studies:** Nika has taught screenwriting at George Brown since 1987. The success of her teaching is reflected by the success of her students, whose screenplays have been produced and screened at film festivals in Toronto and Vancouver.

**Beth Ryan, Language Studies:** Beth, an ESL teacher, developed the Spoken English course. A tireless teacher, with classes four days and four nights of the week, she nonetheless gives generously of her time and teaching materials to new teachers and is always there when a student needs her.

**Debby Smith, Graphics:** Debby started her painting career in 1990, has been exhibiting her work since 1992 and teaching at the college since 1993. A dynamic and innovative teacher with a mastery of her art, Debby's commitment to her students extends far beyond the classroom walls.

**Lucy Cabral, Yorkville School of Makeup and Esthetics:** Lucy worked in esthetics for more than 10 years and is well-known in the industry. An exceptionally responsible and conscientious instructor, students praise her professionalism, approachability and concern for students.

**Randy Christensen, Interior Decorating:** Randy's classes at George Brown include History of Design and Basic Interior Decorating, and he is developing the curriculum for the new, expanded Interior Decorating program. A teacher for more than 27 years, an award-

winning designer and a writer on design, Randy also heads up his own firm.

**Linda Wilson, Community Services:** A Registered Nurse specializing in gerontology, Linda is an outstanding instructor in our Personal Support Worker program. Feedback on Linda's classes consistently refers to her professionalism, clarity and expertise.

**Merle Reist, Corporate Training:** Merle has been part of the college's Corporate Training department for seven years, training companies such as the TTC and Canada Post. Merle also develops course curricula and materials, meeting often unpredictable deadlines, and always with a consultative approach. His students value his ability to make complex concepts easy to understand.

**Kirsten Snowden, Hospitality:** Kirsten teaches and develops the curriculum in our Tour Guide program. Kirsten has a great love of travel and has worked as a tour guide and manager in Canada, Europe, North Africa, Central America and South America. Students praise her patience and encouraging, positive attitude.

**Vita Giglio, Culinary Arts:** A graduate of the full-time Baker/Pâtissier Apprentice program, Vita joined us four years ago, teaching and developing the curriculum in the Bakery Arts program. To quote a student, "Everyone has a gift, and Vita's is teaching." Her tremendous passion extends to her tireless efforts on behalf of breast cancer survivors.

**Shao-Pin Chu, Fashion & Jewellery:** Shao-Pin studied industrial metalwork in Taiwan and graduated from the George Brown

three-year Jewellery Arts program in 1997. He is a dedicated teacher with many students who register for his courses repeatedly. He also has a studio in the Distillery District.

**Roman Susel, Business:** Roman teaches and develops the curriculum in our Financial Planning program. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the new RBC Investments Awards (two \$1,000 awards) for Financial Planning Certificate graduates.

**Kirsten Farquharson, Nursing:** Kirsten teaches Health Assessment, and spent many extra hours this year upgrading the course to meet the standards for Ryerson University credit. Kirsten is dedicated to the success of the program and her students, who always give excellent feedback about her up-to-date expertise.

**Marisa Simone, Health Sciences:** Marisa has taught in our Dental Radiography program since 1999. Student feedback from Marisa's courses reflects her thorough knowledge, clarity and precision. Through her course materials and opportunities for student questions, she makes sure her students understand what she teaches.

**Roger Morin, Technology:** Roger has taught at George Brown since 1995, teaching electrical home inspection courses. He is devoted to his own professional development, concentrating on commercial and industrial construction. Roger's enthusiasm, humour, easy-going nature and years of experience make him a remarkable teacher.

Congratulations to all the winners of the ConEd Teaching Excellence Awards.



ConEd's best instructors at the Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony on Dec. 3. Back row, from left to right: Debby Smith, Vita Giglio, Linda Wilson, Beth Ryan, Shao-Pin Chu, Roman Susel, Colin Simpson (Dean), Merle Reist, Roger Morin, Randy Christensen, Marissa Simone, Kirsten Snowden. Front row, left to right: Anne Sado (College President), Lucy Cabral and Nika Rylski. Kirsten Farquharson was unable to attend.